

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15755

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, FR, UR

SUBJ: PECHINEY-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS ON ALUMINUM COMPLEX

REF: MOSCOW 4274, MARCH 25, 1974

1. AT OCTOBER 16 RECEPTION, COMMATT ASKED S.N. GLEBOV, STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR NON-FERROUS METALS PROJECTS, WHETHER SOVIET DISCUSSIONS WITH PECHINEY/UGINE KUHLMANN ON ALUMINUM PROJECT WERE CONTINUING. GLEBOV SAID TALKS WERE GOING QUITE WELL AND ADDED THAT BOTH SOVIETS AND FRENCH EXPECTED TO SIGN AGREEMENT ON PROJECT PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31, 1974 IN ORDER UTILIZE UNEXPENDED PORTION OF 1973/74 FRENCH CREDITS. GLEBOV INDICATED THAT AGREEMENT, IF SIGNED, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE IN FINAL FORM BUT WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY SOLID TO QUALIFY FOR CREDITS.

2. KAISER INDUSTRIES OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BOARD CHAIRMAN EDGAR KAISER, CURRENTLY IN MOSCOW FOR MEETING OF US/USSR TRADE-ECONOMIC COUNCIL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REPORT THAT THEY HAVE STILL NOT RECEIVED "INVITATION" FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE TO BEGIN COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THEIR ALUMINUM PROJECT. EDGAR KAISER NOTED
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IN DISCUSSION WITH COMMATT THAT GOSPLAN DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

N.N. INOZEMTSEV HAD MENTIONED KAISER'S DIFFICULTIES WITH JAMAICAN AUTHORITIES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THEIR RECENT DISCUSSIONS. KAISER SAID SOVIETS CLEARLY HOPE THAT HIS COMPANY'S INTEREST IN OBTAINING ALTERNATIVE BAUXITE SUPPLIES WILL CAUSE KAISER TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON QUESTION OF PRICES, CREDITS, ETC. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, KAISER INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT HE WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER DETAILS ON ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF NEW SOVIET PROCESS FOR UTILIZING LOW-GRADE BAUXITE BEFORE ENTERING INTO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. MATLLOCK

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